

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 175801

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, SO, US

SUBJECT: SIAD'S READING OF US INTENTIONS

1. WEST GERMAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAS PROVIDED AF/E
WITH INFORMAL REPORT OF WEST GERMAN AMBASSADOR'S TALKS
WITH SIAD IN MOGADISCIO ON JULY 5.

2. OF PARTICULAR INTEREST ARE SIAD'S COMMENTS ON US
INTENTIONS. SIAD OBSERVED TO FRG AMBASSADOR THAT THE WEST
WAS ATTEMPTING TO EXTRACT FROM HIM POLITICAL CONCESSIONS
REGARDING THE USE OF FORCE WHICH WERE DOMESTICALLY INTOLER-
ABLE. SIAD SUGGESTED THAT THESE PRESSURES INDICATED TO
HIM THAT WASHINGTON WAS INTERESTED IN HIS REMOVAL FROM
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OFFICE IN THE HOPE THAT HE MIGHT BE REPLACED BY A MORE
FLEXIBLE SUCCESSOR. HE CLAIMED HOWEVER THAT HIS DEPARTURE
FROM OFFICE COULD ONLY BRING ABOUT A TURN TO THE LEFT.

3. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S COMMENTS.

4. FOLLOWING IS FULL SUMMARY OF SIAD'S REMARKS AS PRO-

VIDED BY WEST GERMAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON.

A. SIAD WAS GRATEFUL FOR FRIENDLY RECEPTION, BUT DIS-APPOINTED BY MEAGRE RESULTS OF HIS VISITS TO EUROPEAN AND ARAB COUNTRIES. HE SAID HE HAD FOUND NO WILLINGNESS TO PROTECT SOMALIA. THIS INCREASINGLY REDUCED WESTERN CREDIBILITY. HIS OFFICERS WERE GETTING RESTLESS, AND HIS OUSTER AND SOMALIA'S REVERSION TO THE SOVIET CAMP COULD NOT BE EXCLUDED.

B. STATEMENTS ON THE RENUNCIATION OF FORCE TOWARDS THE NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES WOULD BE OUT OF THE QUESTION FOR DOMESTIC REASONS, AS THEY WOULD MEAN OR BE INTERPRETED AS A RENUNCIATION OF THE SOMALIS' RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION, OR AS A CAPITULATION IN THE CASE OF ETHIOPIA. HE HAD, HOWEVER, REPEATEDLY STRESSED HIS PEACEFUL DESIGNS. KENYA HAD NOT REPLIED TO THIS. IN DJIBOUTI'S CASE THERE WAS NO NEED FOR SUCH STATEMENTS ANYWAY, IN VIEW OF SOMALIA'S POLICY OF UNAMBIGUOUS FRIENDSHIP. ALL HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO WOULD BE TO SUMMON ALL WESTERN AMBASSADORS AND REPEAT TO THEM SOMALIA'S PEACEFULNESS. WHY DID WE TRY TO PUT PRESSURE ON HIM IN THIS FASHION?

C. SIAD SAID HE COULD NOT BE BLAMED FOR GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES IN THE OGADEN, WHICH WAS NOT SOMALIA'S AFFAIR. SOMALIA, HOWEVER, COULD NOT GIVE UP MORAL AND HUMANITARIAN

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SUPPORT FOR THE REBELS, AS THIS WAS THE SINE QUA NON FOR ANY SOMALI REGIME'S SURVIVAL.

D. HIS TRIPS TO EGYPT, SAUDI ARABIA, QATAR, OMAN, KUWAIT AND THE EMIRATES HAD PRODUCED NO ARMS ASSISTANCE IN VIEW OF THE BLOCKING EFFECT OF WESTERN (IN PARTICULAR AMERICAN) HESITATION.

E. THE MEAGRE RESULTS OF HIS TRIP HAD PUT HIM IN A DIFFICULT SPOT VIS-A-VIS THE OFFICER CORPS. HE HAD POLITELY BEEN TOLD THAT HIS POLICY DID NOT PAY OFF. AT THE SAME TIME HE HAD NOTICED A CERTAIN "LACK OF INTEREST" WHICH HE FOUND DISQUIETING. THE OFFICERS, HOWEVER, HAD REJECTED HIS (RHETORICAL) QUESTION WHETHER THEY WANTED HIM TO RESIGN. BUT EVEN SO HE FELT ISOLATED AMONG HIS OWN COLLEAGUES. THE OFFICERS, AND IN PARTICULAR, THE YOUNG OFFICERS, WANTED TO SEE READINESS FOR QUICK ASSISTANCE. HIS ARMY, HE SAID, WAS REACTING NERVOUSLY TO MASSIVE ETHIOPIAN REARMAMENT AND PROVOCATIONS (AIR ATTACKS). HE COULD NOT EMPLOY THE ARMY WITH CIVILIAN PROJECTS, BECAUSE "THE SOMALIS, AFTER ALL, ARE NOT LIKE THE CHINESE."

F. WHAT ELSE HE COULD DO TO SATISFY THE WEST AND RECEIVE ARMS ASSISTANCE? THE FRG AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO RELIEVE THE FEARS OF HIS NEIGHBORS, AND THAT THIS WAS A TASK WHICH WE JUST COULD NOT PERFORM FOR HIM. SIAD SAID HE WOULD ACCEPT WHICHEVER RESULTS A FREE

REFERENDUM IN THE OGADEN MIGHT PRODUCE. AUTONOMY WITHIN THE ETHIOPIAN STATE WOULD ALSO BE ACCEPTABLE FOR HIM. YET CONTINUING PRESSURE BY THE WEST TO OBTAIN A RENUNCIATION OF FORCE WHICH WOULD NOT BE "DOMESTICALLY BEARABLE" INDICATED TO HIM THAT WASHINGTON WAS INTERESTED IN SEEING HIM GO, POSSIBLY IN THE HOPE OF SEEING A MORE FLEXIBLE SUCCESSOR. BUT AFTER HIM, THERE'D ONLY BE A TURN TO THE CONFIDENTIAL

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LEFT.

G. SIAD SAID HE WOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE OAU SUMMIT. HE WOULD NOT SEEK TALKS WITH KENYA (AS THEY WOULD NOT BE WORTH THE EFFORT IN VIEW OF KENYATTA'S GROWING SENILITY AND THE RESULTING DISPARITY OF KENYAN OPINIONS), NOR WITH ETHIOPIA, SINCE MENGISTU WAS "UNDER TUTELAGE."

H. IN CONCLUSION SIAD AGAIN OFFERED SOMALIA'S FRIENDSHIP IN URGENT TERMS, SAYING THAT HE WAS PREPARED TO SUPPORT THE WEST TO THE BEST OF HIS ABILITIES. ECONOMICALLY, TOO, HIS COUNTRY HAD SOMETHING TO OFFER IN TERMS OF NATURAL RESOURCES. CHRISTOPHER

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